

cond.

loading a bed of biomass into an extraction vessel having an inlet and an outlet and forming part of a closed loop circuit including, operatively connected in series, the extraction vessel, an evaporator and a condenser;

contacting the biomass with a solvent flowing around the closed loop, whereby biomass extract becomes entrained with the solvent;

moving the solvent around the closed loop to the evaporator and evaporating the solvent to separate the solvent and the extract from one another;

moving the vaporised solvent around the closed loop to the condenser and condensing it to liquid form;

moving the condensed solvent around the closed loop via a liquid lute operatively connected in series with the condenser to the extraction vessel for further contact with biomass therein, wherein the solvent in vapour form is generally uncompressed; and

wherein the method includes the step of allowing the condensed, liquid solvent to move under gravity between the condenser and the extraction vessel.

Cancel claim 20.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were originally presented for examination. Of those claims, claims 1 and 19 were independent claims.

A few minor amendments have been made to the abstract and specification.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the subject matter of dependent claims 17 and 18, claim 19 has been amended herein to include the subject matter of dependent claim 20, and claims 17, 18 and 20 have been cancelled.

Early examination and allowance of all of the remaining claims, claims 1-16, 19 and 21-24, are solicited.